Eileen Davidson

Dr. Sherry

Foundations of Writing

September 21, 2013

Reading Response 3

My Freshman Year

In my interpretation of this section of My Freshman Year, I realized that it takes a lot to step outside of your comfort zone. The anthropologist was even astonished by the ways of American culture along with college life. I also was very surprised about how truly different greetings could be, conversation starters, and so forth. It’s different from country to country and I just found it so strange that the Japanese girl expected to meet up with people when they offered but then she was confused because she never received a phone number in order to actually make plans. Also, it was odd that no students were interested in international students’ countries, which I thought more people would definitely want to know at least something. I was surprised by the questions that were actually asked, like “Is Japan in China?” and “Do you have a hole for a bathroom?” Personally, I’d be offended by these comments. It just seems like the only questions American students want to ask seem like more of a joke rather than something serious, or they go off by something they’ve heard, which always seems to be an altered version of the truth. It’s crazy how American sustained such a community that is completely different from a lot of other countries.

Mind at Work: Chapter 1

I really liked the questions asked to the waitress because I think they are questions every person wants to know but never wants to ask. I also wanted to point out the part where the waitress says to her daughter, “You learn a lot as a waitress. You work like hell. But you learn a lot”. I believe I’ve said this before and I’ll say it again that waitressing is a job where you’ll learn a lot. You meet so many people, especially the longer you work. Work is an experience and that’s part of a community. Waitressing has its own community, just like any other job would. You could learn so much by just listening to stories from the people that come to the restaurant/diner every day. There’s different socioeconomic levels and waitresses tend to be on the lower pool because they make just enough to get by but at the same time they’re make their life an experience because they chose such a hardworking job. I think the community in waitressing is so different from a lot of jobs because all waitresses have the job in common but who they meet, and what they learn as their days go by, it’s all different. Everyone has a different experience and that’s what shapes your life.